

**Remarks**

The Examiner objected to the title. In response, applicants have changed the title to "Technique for Effectively Maintaining Components of a Vehicle," which applicants believe is more descriptive of the claimed invention.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 16 and 21 contain allowable subject matter.

However, the Examiner rejected claims 13-15, 17-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by King.

The claimed invention is directed to measuring certain usage of a vehicle component, e.g., engine, to determine whether maintenance or servicing of the engine is needed. In an illustrative embodiment of the invention, the maintenance is scheduled according to the cumulative duration of the tachometer reading above a predetermined RPM value. Each time when the tachometer exceeds the predetermined value, the duration of such an occurrence is recorded. The latter is added to a running sum to update the cumulative duration in question. When the cumulative duration exceeds a predetermined length, a maintenance alert is triggered, and a selectable option may be provided on a display in the vehicle. A selection of the option causes information about the alert to be provided, thereby facilitating servicing of the vehicle component.

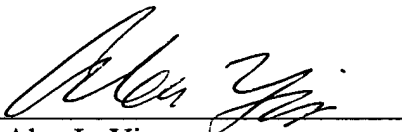
King discloses a technique for determining excessive engine oil usage based on the operation time of an engine in "hot" temperatures versus that in "cold" temperatures. The Examiner admitted that the prior art, including King, does not teach or suggest use of "a duration [including] a time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate" as a measure, as recited in claims 16 and 21. Office Action at page 3. To advance prosecution of the application, applicants have incorporated such claim limitations into independent claims 13 and 18, thereby rendering these claims patentable over the prior art including King. Claims 14-17 and 19-22 have been amended to point out other aspects of the invention, which are patentable by virtue of their dependency

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from amended claims 13 and 18.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims, 13-22, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested, and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

By   
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